

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,364

Examiner

PETER POLTORAK

Applicant(s)

WILLIAMS, JEFF

Art Unit

2434

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication/amendment filed on 8/10/09 and a telephonic communication on 8/18/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14,15,18,20,22-26 and 30-38.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
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| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>18 August 2009</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's communication/amendment filed on 8/10/09 and a telephonic communication on 8/18/09.

Examiner Amendment

2. An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

The following changes were authorized by Patrick Lujin in a telephone interview on 8/18/09.

3. Please cancel claim 26 and amend claims 14 and 38 as follows:

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14. A method for recommending to a first computer user a decision for downloading content, the method implemented by the first user's computer comprising:

at the first user's computer:

reading a profile for the first user;

receiving a selection of one or more experts from a listing of experts that is presented when the user is presented with an option of downloading the content,

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wherein each of the one or more selected experts comprises an individual user other than the first user;

reading at least one expert profile associated with the one or more selected experts;

assigning an amount of weight to the at least one expert profile in accordance with trust factors associated with the associated at least one expert profile,

obtaining information about the content;

computing a recommendation of whether or not to trust the content;

providing said recommendation as a default option to the first user whether or not to trust the content, wherein the recommendation computation is based upon the profile for the first user, the at least one expert profile, the amount of weight assigned to the at least one expert profile, and the information about the content; and

updating the trust factors associated with the at least one expert profile based on a third party's valuation of the at least one expert.

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38. The method of claim 30 wherein the recommendation is provided by the first user's computer.

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Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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4. In light of applicant's arguments/amendments and the examiner amendment authorized by applicant's representative claims 14-15, 18, 20, 22-26 and 30-38 are allowed.
5. Also, it is noted that the updated search revealed two pieces of prior art related to expert options. In particular, Deh-Lee (USPUB 2003/0140037) relates to a search list of experts in response to a user using a computer network, wherein a computer system includes an updateable and searchable database of expert profiles and receives search requests from users and applies a weight designated by the user to attributes of the expert as part of the search. Also Chidlovskii (USPN 6327590) aims to rank search results obtained from an information retrieval system, comparing the terms in the search query with a predetermined user context profile, the context profile preferably including a user profile or a community profile, which includes a set of terms which has been rated by the user, community or a recommender system. However, none of these references teach assigning an amount of weight to the at least one expert profile in accordance with trust factors associated with the associated at least one expert profile, especially as pertaining to other required limitations of the independent claims 14 and 27.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on statement of Reasons for Allowance".

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Poltorak whose telephone number is (571) 272-3840. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday through Thursday from 9:00 until 5:00, and every other Friday from 9:00 until 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kambiz Zand can be reached on (571) 272-3811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

/Peter Poltorak/

Examiner, Art Unit 2434

/Nasser G Moazzami/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2436